

Northwich Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1950.

NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

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Northwich Urban District Council.

Health Report for 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich
Urban District Council.

Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1950.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,137 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,330
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,994
Rateable value (December, 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£126,404
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£496

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	{ Legitimate ..	238	113	125	{ Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	13·64
	{ Illegitimate ..	12	7	5		
Still Births	{ Legitimate ..	6	4	2	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ..	23·43
	{ Illegitimate ..	—	—	—		
Deaths..	..	246	152	94	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ..	13·42
					After adjustment by the Comparability Factor ..	13·42

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1000 live births	..	32·00
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	..	33·61
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	40
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1950 with the years 1939—1949:—

Year.	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1939.	19,270	14.16	12.76	54.54	39	10
1940.	18,730	14.89	14.48	73.68	32	16
1941.	18,690	15.14	11.28	48.44	28	13
1942.	18,290	15.14	11.31	57.76	33	9
1943.	18,130	18.42	12.18	47.90	32	7
1944.	18,070	17.43	14.27	41.26	40	13
1945.	18,130	19.02	13.67	60.86	32	8
1946.	19,150	21.14	12.95	46.91	38	13
1947.	19,580	20.02	11.54	40.81	32	1
1948.	19,230	18.09	11.18	28.73	41	9
1949.	18,810	17.33	12.59	39.87	28	8
1950.	18,330	13.64	13.42	32.00	40	—

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1950.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis...	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	3	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	7	—	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	17	6	23
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	13	30
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	3	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	6
20. Other heart disease	30	36	66
21. Other circulatory disease	13	1	14
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis	10	6	16
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis...	3	2	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	9	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents...	3	—	3
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	152	94	246

New Industries.

The following new Industries opened during 1950:—

Halton (Textiles) Ltd., — Underwear Manufacturers.
Chapel, Street, Northwich.
R. Edgar Hallett & Co., Ltd. — Shirt & Pyjama Manufacturers.
Warrington Road, Northwich.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board).
Sister I. D. Rogerson	Trained Nurse (part-time) Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation. (Resigned July, 1950).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts and the County Council).
Clerical Staff.	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
T. Baines, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.	Senior Sanitary Inspector. (Commenced 2.1.1950).	(Northwich Urban Dis- trict only).
F. Johnson, M.S.I.A., Cert R.S.I. Meat and other Foods.	Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
F. Lamb.	Junior Assistant (at present studying for R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B. Certificate).	-do-
G. Dutton	Junior Clerk (Commenced 3.7.1950).	-do-

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Northwich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year.

(3) **Environmental Services.**

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services.

Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee provided Hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases and during the year admitted 39 patients from the Northwich Urban District.

(C) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, etc., etc.

(D) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council).

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee provided the following Services:—

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.

The work done during the year 1950 in Northwich Urban District is detailed as follows:—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

No. of children who have completed treatment during	
1950	183

Vaccinations.

No. of children who have been vaccinated during	
1950	117

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

No. of children who have been treated during 1950	22
---	----

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme was curtailed during the year owing to the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis in the country. It was thought advisable to discontinue mass immunisation from July until the end of October.

A certain number of children received the protective treatment at their own Doctor's Surgeries and at home. The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.

1950 has seen a further increase in calls on the Service, without any corresponding increase in staff. A simple example of this increased demand can be cited as follows:—

1036 patients were removed in 9 weeks during Nov./Dec., 1949

1073 patients were removed in 6 weeks during Nov./Dec., 1950

At the close of 1950, some 19 private taxi firms were employed regularly in carrying patients on behalf of the Service.

Two new ambulances were put into service in the area during the year, 1 Humber Pullman and 1 Morris. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining replacements for parts in the old vehicles and at the end of the year two vehicles, both 14 years old, had to be taken off the road.

The Ambulance Staff at the close of the year was:—

1 Supervisor.	6 Drivers.
1 Senior Driver.	2 Attendants.

The above team travelled 152,674 miles during the year under all kinds of road conditions and, I think, should be congratulated on covering such a high mileage without serious mishap or breakdown.

Several long distance journeys have been undertaken in the year and in two cases, one to London and one to Durham, the services of the British Railways were used. I would like to state how co-operative the Staff of British Railways were on both occasions.

(c) Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.

The work of the Committee under this Section has dealt mainly with Tuberculosis After Care, in addition to the Care of the Sick and Aged and, to a lesser degree, with the After Care of mental cases. A variety of medical equipment and comforts were provided for the use of the sick in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service.

The Domestic Help Service in the area has expanded considerably during 1950 and Helps have been provided as follows:—

March Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	32
June Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	34
September Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	38
December Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	55

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The water services are under the control of the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board.

During the course of the year, 22 samples of the Town's water supply were submitted to the Laboratory for Bacteriological or Chemical Examination. All but two samples were reported upon satisfactorily.

Swimming Bath.—The "Fill and Empty" system ended on Saturday, 17th June, 1950, being superseded with a "Turnover" Bath Water Purification Plant on Monday, 19th June, 1950. The plant comprises the following:—

Two 8'—0" diameter Turnover Air Scour Filters.

One Strainer.

Two 5-h.p. Motors driving two Worthington-Simpson "Enflo" Pumps, each capable of 12,000 g.p.h., making a 3-hour turnover of 24,000 g.p.h.

Chemical Plant: One Automatic Coagulant Apparatus.

One Automatic Alkali Apparatus.

Chlorination by "Turnover" 'B' Type Injector Feed Gas Chlorinator Aerator.

One 2'—0" diameter "Turnover" Closed Pressure Type with Venturi Type Air Injector and Float, and Float Operated Surplus Air Release.

Heating by one Hartley and Sugden Steam Operated Calorifier.

The water is drawn from the deep end of the pool, passing through the strainer where coarse matter is trapped. Immediately past the pumps, injection of chemicals takes place, alumina for coagulation and soda crystals for alkalinity, this forming a film on the filter bed to arrest fine and organic matter. After passing through the filter bed into the outlet pipe line, the water passes through a calorifier for heating purposes, then through the enclosed aerator. Finally, the water is treated with chlorine gas before passing through the three inlets to the pool.

A scum removal chamber is situated in the sub-way. The scum from the pool is drawn from the scum trough, and the six spittoons, whilst the plant is in operation. This is taken to the chamber where the dirt is passed away to drain; a bottom outlet allows the remaining water to be drawn into the suction main.

During the season of 1950, the number of actual bathers using the pool was 44,500. Of this number, 15,200 were children from the various schools in the district, who attended in organised parties.

Three bacteriological examinations of the water in the Town's Swimming Bath were submitted to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory and were reported upon satisfactorily.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. — There is no change to report.

Rivers Pollution.—The Council have the whole matter under consideration and will deal with it when the new development of the town centre takes place.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year, 34 conversions of pail-closets to the water-carriage system were carried out. Owing to labour difficulties, this work was delayed. Otherwise, the contract in existence for the conversion of pail-closets would have been completed.

28 properties with pail-closets were demolished, so that the number remaining to be dealt with is as follows:—

(1) Attached to properties scheduled for demolition	87
(2) Attached to properties where drainage is impracticable	17
(3) Premises to be dealt with	2
(4) Awaiting conversion by contract	18
	<hr/> 124 <hr/>

Schools.—At one girls' school, 6 new W.C. pedestal pans were installed to replace a trough closet.

Factories.—At one factory, new W.C.'s were provided to replace trough closets.

Public Cleansing.—Mr. Baines, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“In April, the refuse and salvage collection service was completely re-organised. The one-remaining horse-drawn vehicle was scrapped and the whole district was covered by motor vehicles. As a result of this re-organisation, all refuse was regularly collected in less than 8 days, and for the greater part of the district it was a regular weekly collection.

The greatest difficulty which exists in this service, is that of labour, and with more attractive work in the town being available, the situation is not likely to improve.

The refuse tip is situated off Manchester Road, and whilst the disposal of refuse can be regarded as being generally satisfactory, trouble has arisen from time to time owing to the tip face having been fired by irresponsible people. There is a lack of suitable covering material, but in spite of this, the tip has been reasonably well controlled.

This tipping site appeared to be ideal and it seemed that there would be unlimited room for tipping for years to come. Unfortunately, the owners of the land — I.C.I. Ltd., Alkali Division — have had to alter the original agreement, in order to use part of the site for their own purposes.

It is hoped that a suitable site can be made available in another part of the district to serve Castle and Winnington Wards, and so lengthen the life of the Manchester Road site for use of the Northwich and Witton Wards of the district.

A new 10 cub. yard Dennis Vehicle was purchased and delivered in October, 1950.

The salvage figures have remained fairly constant, although at the beginning of the year the prices were rather lower than had been the case the previous year, whilst towards the end of the year an increase in price was noticeable.

The total amount of salvage collected and disposed of during the year ending 31st December, 1950, was as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	146	1	3	784	9	9
Salvage other than Waste Paper	122	4	2	349	10	4
Totals ...	268	6	1	1134	0	1

It has been the practice of this Authority for a number of years to provide dustbins out of the general rate. In view of the increasing difficulties which many Authorities are finding in trying to administer the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, this system might be cited as being the solution to the problem concerning responsibility for the provision of dustbins.

It is quite evident from the questionnaires received in the Department from other Authorities, that they have a similar scheme in mind. The greatest difficulty in its administration is due to the indifferent quality of dustbins which are now on the market. Consequently, renewals are required more frequently than with good quality galvanised dustbins."

Recreational and Open Spaces. — The development of the Castleton Slopes was continued during the year and the embankments fronting onto Castle Street were formed up and turfed. The front entrance was made most attractive by flower beds, and in various open spaces throughout the town the Parks Superintendent made colourful and attractive displays with flower beds.

The Council decided that a portion of the playground at Hartford Hill should be levelled and fenced off to provide two separate playing areas for cricket and rounders.

In connection with the Festival of Britain, it was resolved to lay out two hard tennis courts and a crown bowling green at the Vickersway Park and a regulation size football pitch under the River Bank Improvement Scheme.

Offensive Trades.—No action has been found necessary in connection with Offensive Trades, although it is hoped in the near future to try and arrange for certain of the marine store dealers to remove from their present sites to an area away from the centre of the town.

Rodent Infestation. — From March, 1950, the Northwich U.D.C. has been directly responsible for securing the destruction of rats and mice, as the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which repealed the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, became operative.

Important changes introduced by the Act are:—

- (1) The Council now has direct responsibility for the destruction of rats and mice.
- (2) There is financial assistance by way of a 50% grant, except in respect of rodent destruction at business premises.
- (3) The new Act also controls infestation of food by insects and mites, whereas the repealed Act provided for control over rats and mice only.

Mr. Baines reports as follows:—

“Financial assistance is in respect of unrecovered expenditure upon destruction of rats and mice at premises other than business premises. It is, therefore, open to any local authority administering the Act to decide not to recover the cost of rat destruction, except at business premises. The cost is then borne by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the local authority concerned. That has been done at Northwich where a free rat and mice service is available to the public, except at business premises.”

During 1950, a total of 34 private dwellings and 12 Local Authority premises were treated on one or more occasions for rat and mice destruction.

Contracts for regular treatment at 9 shops and works in the District were entered into.

One of the greatest problems to be dealt with was at a warehouse which contained grain, on the river bank. The rats and mice would not touch the various baits and it became difficult to know how to tackle the problem. In the end a supply of condemned pork luncheon meat was used as a bait for both poisoning and trapping, and this proved highly successful.

Rat Destruction in Sewers.—The common brown rat will often inhabit sewers, to which it may gain access from the surface by way of a fractured pipe.

Sewers are treated for rat destruction and it was rather surprising to find how free were the sewers. Possibly the explanation is that the sewers frequently become surcharged and consequently any large rat infestation is prevented.

The Sewage works at Winnington are regularly treated.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are only two registered Common Lodging Houses in the district and there is no change to record.

Canal Boats.—1 new canal boat was registered during the year. The number of boats registered with the Authority is now 30.

Licensed Camping Sites.—There are no licensed camping sites in the Northwich Urban District. One application for a licence was received, but no licence was granted as the site was considered to be unsuitable.

Disinfestation.—During the year 57 premises were treated for various insect infestation, i.e. bugs, beetles, ants, wasps, etc.

This service is carried out by the Health Department and every encouragement is given to people to report any infestation in order that the necessary treatment may be carried out. No charge is made.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

(Based on Statement made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Nature of Inspections made	Number.	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices.					
		Statutory.	Informal.	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions		Instituted	Pending
I. Dwelling Houses
(general inspection)
2. Cellar Dwellings
3. Back-to-Back Houses
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.
5. Courts, Yards, Passages
6. Pail Closets
7. Cesspools
8. House Drainage
9. Ditches, Watercourses
10. Offensive Accumulation
11. Keeping of Animals
12. Offensive Trades
13. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public)
" " (Private)
(b) Other Places where food is produced or sold
14. Piggeries
15. (a) Dairies
(b) Cowsheds
(c) Milkshops
16. (a) Factories
(b) Workshops
(c) Workplaces
(d) Outworkers' Premises
17. Bakehouses (Overground)
" " (Underground)
18. Common Lodging Houses
19. Houses let in Lodgings
20. Smoke Nuisances
21. Canal Boats
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits
23. Miscellaneous
	3341	..	228	171	57	..	..	..	..

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	28	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	97	47	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	115	75	5	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	10	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	10	13	—	5	—

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

An important function of every Local Authority is to secure the repair, closure or demolition of unfit houses. The acute housing shortage continued to slow down any large scale clearance of sub-standard houses, although some progress is being made in dealing with the worst of this type of property. This delay is a serious matter for both the tenants and for the owners of sub-standard houses, for they have to be maintained in a habitable condition at an expense which is quite uneconomic.

A tenant expects that a house shall be maintained in a reasonable state of repair, and he has the right to complain to the Local Authority if the landlord fails to do so. Upon receipt of such a complaint, the Sanitary Inspector has to carry out an inspection and thereafter it is his duty and the duty of the Local Authority to require the owner to remedy the defects. The owner is then faced with the problem of having to discharge his legal duty to maintain a house in a fit condition, although the rent he receives is totally inadequate to allow him to do so.

There is no solution to this problem until it is permissible for pre-war rents to be increased by an amount which bears some relation to present day costs and values. It is not uncommon for repairs required upon a sanitary notice to absorb the rent of a house for several years to come.

During 1950, the Sanitary Inspectors made 2,462 visits and re-visits in connection with the repair of houses. Difficulties of getting notices complied with is still apparent, not only is the owner in many cases reluctant to spend money on the property, but there is often a shortage of skilled labour and, on occasions, certain materials.

In spite of all these obstacles, it has not been necessary to serve any statutory notices for compliance with repair notices; it has always proved possible to persuade the owners to carry out the repairs without legal action.

Housing Act, 1936. — During the year, 62 dwellings were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and 6 under Section 12 of the same Act. Demolition Orders were made in 56 cases and undertakings not to re-let in 6 cases. (In 2 cases temporary licences were issued to allow the houses, after minor repairs were carried out, to be re-let for short periods). The tenants of all the houses dealt with have been re-housed by the Council, and the demolition of the houses is proceeding where a demolition order is operative.

Provision of New Houses.—During 1950, the development of Manor Park Estate proceeded and at the end of the year, 224 houses had been completed and tenanted.

A commencement was also made in December on the new site at Leftwich and the foundations of 10 houses were laid.

Houses — Conversion.—The Council completed the conversion of “The Mount” into two self-contained flats during 1950.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—During the year the transfer of control over milk production at dairy farms passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Northwich Urban District Council remains the responsible Authority for the registration of milk distributors and their dairies, except when the distributor is also a milk producer.

There are 18 milk distributors operating in Northwich and 1 registered dairy.

The Northwich Urban District Council is also responsible for granting licences authorising milk distributors to use the special designations “Tuberculin Tested,” “Accredited” and “Pasteurised.”

The following licences were granted to milk distributors in 1950:—

- 8 licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 6 licences to sell Pasteurised Milk.

Supplementary Licences:—

- 3 licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 4 licences to sell Pasteurised Milk.

At Castle Park Dairies there is a Pasteurising Plant which is now licensed by the Cheshire County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority.

Milk Sampling.—During the year under review, 64 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows:—

		Satisfactory	
3	Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	3	
7	T.T./Pasteurised Milk ...	6	(1 sample — report invalid)
32	Pasteurised Milk ...	31	(1 sample — report invalid)
8	Ungraded Milk ...	5	(2 unsatisfactory and 1 invalid reports).

There is no legal standard for ungraded milk and the 2 ungraded milk samples were considered unsatisfactory by comparison with the standards laid down for raw graded milk.

In addition, 14 samples were submitted for Tuberculosis examination, with three positive results. These were referred to the County Council and the animals causing the infection were traced and destroyed.

The milk supply in this town can be considered to be very satisfactory; few samples fail the prescribed tests and when failures do occur, the source of the trouble is ascertained and corrected.

Most local dairymen are co-operative and have a strong appreciation of their obligations to the public to provide milk which is clean and safe to consume.

(b) **Ice Cream.**—The consumption of ice cream has increased enormously since the end of the war, and is no longer sold exclusively during the summer months. At Northwich, the manufacture and sale of ice cream is controlled by the Council, which is responsible for the administration of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, and the appropriate sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year, 15 new registrations were granted and the position at the end of 1950 was as follows:—

Registered premises for the sale of ice cream	...	40
Registered premises for the sale and manufacture of ice cream	... ..	3
		—
Total	...	43
		—

The Methylene Blue test is still employed as an indicator of cleanliness of ice cream, and during 1950, 19 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

Grade I	... ..	13 samples
Grade II	... ..	3 samples
Grade III	... ..	1 sample
Grade IV	... ..	2 samples

(c) **Food Inspection — Meat and Meat Products.**—The private slaughterhouses were closed in 1939, and subsequently all slaughtering was transferred to Winsford, and all meat has to be transported into Northwich from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse and Depot at Winsford.

Both your Sanitary Inspectors are qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, and although there is no longer any inspection at slaughterhouses, your Inspectors keep an eye on meat and other foods exposed for sale in retail shops. It has been possible from time to time to secure improvement of the quality of meat allocated to local butchers.

During 1950, a total of 1 ton, 1 cwt., 73 lb. of food of all kinds was condemned or surrendered as unfit by traders at local retail shops and cafes. This food included meat, fish, vegetables and tinned foods of all kinds.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—1 new licence was issued for the Slaughter of Animals, the number now in operation being 5.

Fried Fish.—There are 22 registered premises for the frying of fish, 2 more than in 1949.

Other Foods.—Tinned foods are examined from time to time at grocers' premises and blown and leaking tins are rejected and condemned. Frozen foods are becoming increasingly popular, and up till now none has been found to be unsound.

Bakehouses.—There are 30 bakehouses in the district and steps are being taken to bring about improvements where necessary. Generally speaking, the bakehouses are in a satisfactory condition. 34 routine inspections were made during the year and every effort was made to obtain and maintain a good standard of cleanliness.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Urban District during the year 1950:—

Name of Sample	Number obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Aspirin Tablets	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Cheese (Blue Vein)	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cornflour	1	—
Custard Flavouring	1	—
Dripping	1	—
Fish ("Snoek")	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Flour (Mixtures)	1	—
Flour (Scone)	1	—
Gelatine (Dessert)	2	—
Herbs & Honey	1	—
Iodine (Tincture)	1	—
Junket Essence	1	—
Meat (Potted)	1	—
Milk (fresh)	40	2
Paraffin (Soft)	1	—
Semolina	1	—
Soda — Bicarbonate	1	—
Stuffing (Sage & Onion)	1	—
	—	—
	62	2
	—	—

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard:—

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Milk.	Naturally deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 2.35%.	No action taken.
2.	Milk.	6.6% deficient in fat.	Seller cautioned. Retail sale.

SECTION F.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, as may be gathered from the following tables:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1950.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	18	16	—
Pneumonia	14	2	5
Measles	45	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	18	—	—
Dysentery	4	2	—
Infantile Paralysis	1	—	—

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local Doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 „ ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	3	1	3	—	—	—	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
145	160	160	165	175	185	182	176	146	151	146	137

(3) DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

The disinfection of 42 homes and other premises was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding) ...	8
For Infectious Diseases, etc. ...	34

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1951.

